

PATENT  
PRELIMINARY AMENDMENT

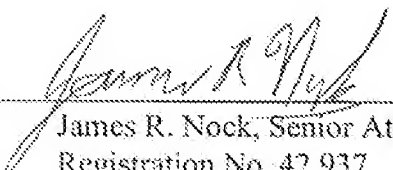
REMARKS

Applicant has amended claims 1, 3, 14-17, 32, 35, and 39 of the present invention to more clearly define the present invention and better distinguish the present invention over the art cited by the Examiner. Applicant submits that all of Applicant's amendments are fully supported by the specification, and introduce no new matter.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, applicant submits that this application is in condition for allowance and respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections and objections. Allowance of all claims remaining in this application is respectfully requested. The Examiner is urged to call the undersigned at the below-listed telephone number if, in the Examiner's opinion, such a phone conference would expedite or aid in the prosecution of this application.

Respectfully submitted,

By: \_\_\_\_\_

  
James R. Nock, Senior Attorney  
Registration No. 42,937

Telephone: (507) 253-4661  
Fax No.: (507) 253-2382